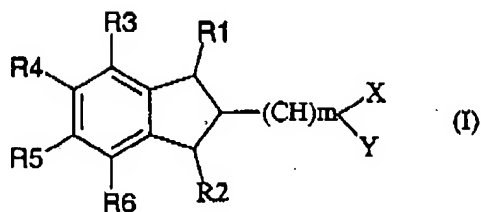


**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A compound having structural formula (I):



stereoisomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or hydrates thereof,  
wherein:

R1, and R2 are selected from the group comprising:

- (i) H
- (ii) an acidic group selected from the group comprising carboxy, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfino, borono, tetrazol, isoxazol,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -carboxy,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphino,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfino,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -borono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -tetrazol, or  $-(CH_2)_n$ -isoxazol, where  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , or 6;

X is an acidic group selected from the group comprising carboxy, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfino, borono, tetrazol or isoxazol;

Y is a basic group selected from the group comprising 1° amino, 2° amino, 3° amino, quaternary ammonium salts, aliphatic 1° amino, aliphatic 2° amino, aliphatic 3° amino, aliphatic quaternary ammonium salts, aromatic 1° amino, aromatic 2° amino, aromatic 3° amino, aromatic quaternary ammonium salts, imidazol, guanidino, boronoamino, allyl, urea or thiourea;

m is 0, 1;

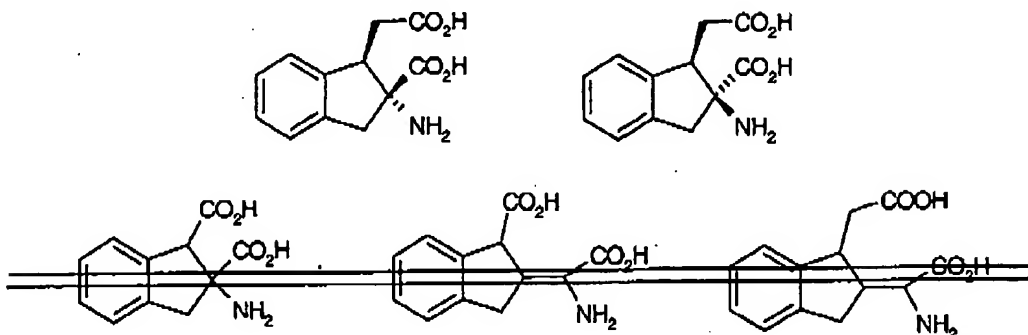
R3, R4, R5, R6 are independently H, nitro, amino, halogen, tritium, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroacetyl, sulfo, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, or an acceptable ester thereof;

with the proviso that ~~when X is COOH and Y is NH<sub>2</sub>, then~~ at least one of R1 and R2 is other than H.

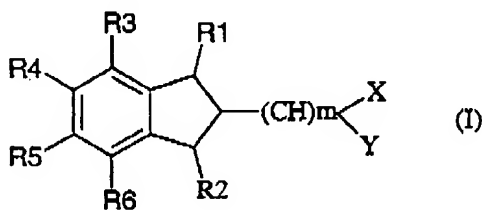
2. (original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R1 is H, CO<sub>2</sub>H or CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H.

3. (original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R2 is H, CO<sub>2</sub>H or CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H.

4. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group of compounds comprising:



5. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable metabolically-labile ester or amide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts or hydrates thereof, wherein:

R1, and R2 are selected from the group comprising:

(i) H

- (ii) an acidic group selected from the group comprising carboxy, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfino, borono, tetrazol, isoxazol,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -carboxy,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphino,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfino,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -borono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -tetrazol, or  $-(CH_2)_n$ -isoxazol, wherein  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , or  $6$ ;

X is an acidic group selected from the group comprising carboxy, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfino, borono, tetrazol or isoxazol;

Y is a basic group selected from the group comprising  $1^\circ$  amino,  $2^\circ$  amino,  $3^\circ$  amino, quaternary ammonium salts, aliphatic  $1^\circ$  amino, aliphatic  $2^\circ$  amino, aliphatic  $3^\circ$  amino, aliphatic quaternary ammonium salts, aromatic  $1^\circ$  amino, aromatic  $2^\circ$  amino, aromatic  $3^\circ$  amino, aromatic quaternary ammonium salts, imidazol, guanidino, boronoamino, allyl, urea or thiourea;

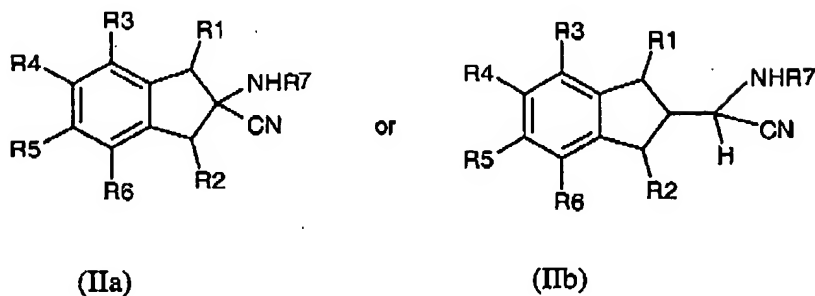
m is 0, 1;

R3, R4, R5, R6 are independently H, nitro, amino, halogen, tritium, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroacetyl, sulfo, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, or an acceptable ester thereof;

with the proviso that ~~when X is COOH and Y is NH<sub>2</sub>, then~~ at least one of R1 and R2 is other than H,

the method comprising which comprises:

a) hydrolyzing a compound of formula (IIa) or (IIb):



wherein: R<sub>1</sub>, and R<sub>2</sub> are selected from the group comprising:

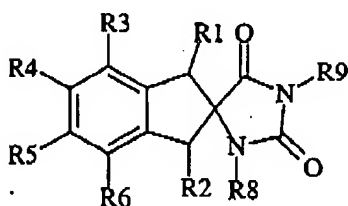
- (i) H
- (ii) an acidic group selected from the group comprising carboxy, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfinio, borono, tetrazol, isoxazol,  
 -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-carboxy, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-phosphono, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-phosphino,  
 -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-sulfono, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-sulfinio, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-borono, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-tetrazol, or  
 -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-isoxazol, wherein n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;

with the proviso that at least one of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is other than H;

R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> are independently H, nitro, amino, halogen, tritium, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroacetyl, sulfo, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, or an acceptable ester thereof;

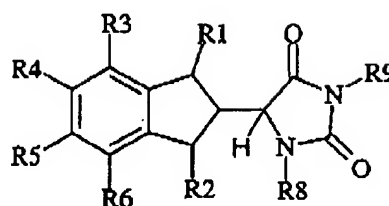
R7 is a hydrogen atom or an acyl group; or

b) hydrolyzing a compound of formula (IIIa) or (IIIb):



(IIIa)

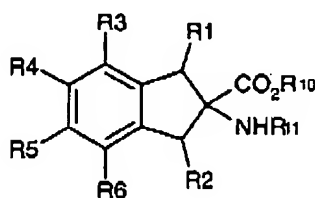
or



(IIIb)

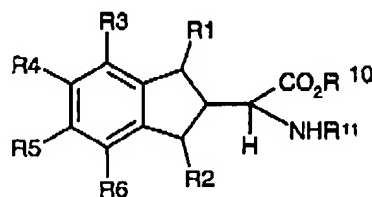
wherein: R1, R2, R3, R4, R5 and R6 are as defined above, R8 and R9 are each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>) alkanoyl group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkyl group, a (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkenyl group or a phenyl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkyl group wherein the phenyl is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkyl or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkoxy, or a salt thereof, or

c) deprotecting a compound of formula (IVa) or (IV b):



(IVa)

or



(IVb)

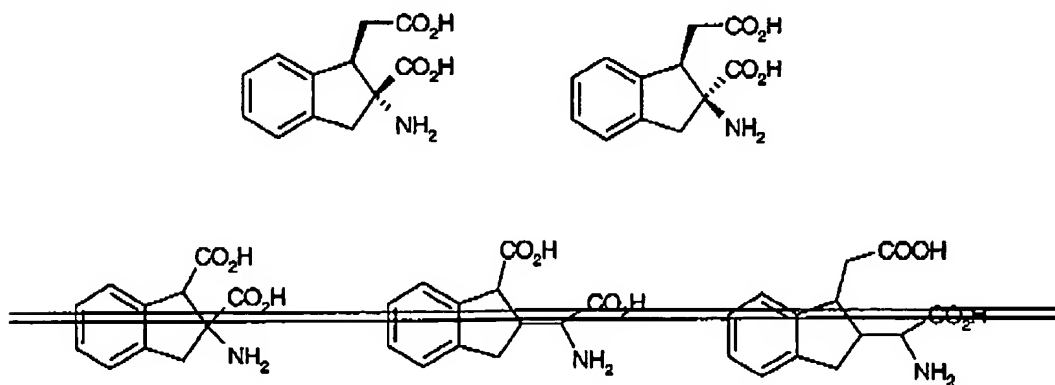
wherein: R1, R2, R3, R4, R5 and R6 are as defined above and R10 is a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl protecting group, or a salt thereof, and R11 represents a hydrogen atom or a nitrogen protecting group;

whereafter, if necessary and/or desired, the following steps are carried out:

- (i) resolving the compound of Formula I;
- (ii) converting the compound of Formula I into a non-toxic metabolically labile ester or amide thereof and/or;
- (iii) converting the compound of Formula I or a non-toxic metabolically labile ester or amide thereof into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (original) A pharmaceutical formulation, which comprises a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

7. (currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6, wherein said compound is selected from the group of compounds comprising:



8. (original) The use of the compound of structural formula (I) according to claim 1, in modulating one or more metabotropic glutamate receptor functions in warm blooded mammals, wherein said use comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

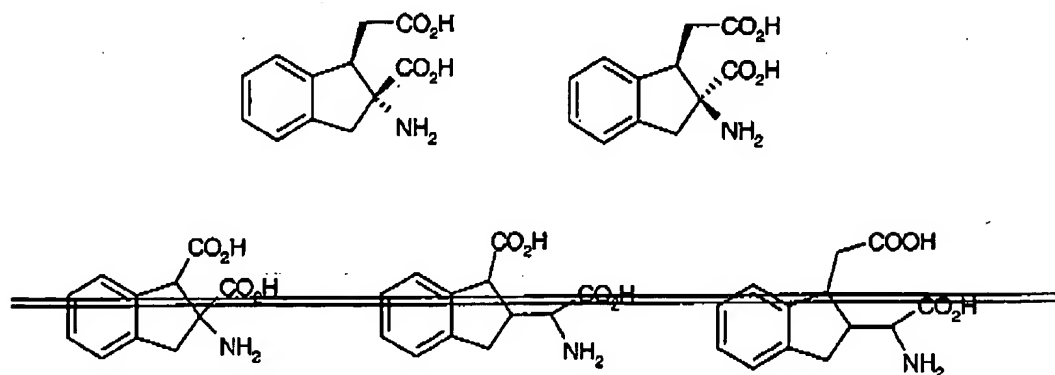
9. The use of the compound of structural formula (I) according to claim 1, in treating a neurological disease or disorder selected from the group comprising: cerebral deficits subsequent to cardiac bypass surgery and grafting, cerebral ischemia, stroke cardiac arrest, spinal cord trauma, head trauma, perinatal hypoxia, hypoglycemic neuronal damage, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's Chorea, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, AIDS-induced dementia, ocular damage, retinopathy, cognitive disorders, idiopathic and drug-induced Parkinson's disease, muscular spasms, convulsions, migraine headaches, urinary incontinence, psychosis, drug tolerance, withdrawal, and cessation, smoking cessation, anxiety and related disorders, emesis, brain edema, chronic pain, sleep disorders, Tourette's syndrome, attention deficit disorder, and tardive dyskinesia, wherein said use comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)

10. The use of the compound of structural formula (I) according to claim 1, in treating a psychiatric disease or disorder selected from the group comprising: schizophrenia, anxiety and related disorders, depression, bipolar disorders, psychosis, and obsessive compulsive disorders, wherein said use comprises administering an effective amount of

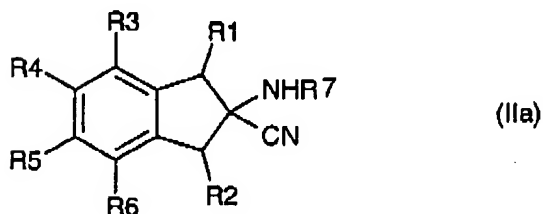


a compound of formula (I).

11. (currently amended) The use according to any one of claims 8, 9 and 10 wherein said compound is selected from the group of compounds comprising:



12. A compound of formula (IIa):



wherein: R1, and R2 can each separately be selected from the group consisting of:

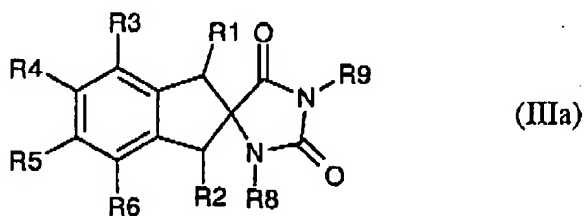
- (i) H
- (ii) an acidic group selected from the group comprising carboxy, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfino, borono, tetrazol, isoxazol,

$-(CH_2)_n$ -carboxy,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphino,  
 $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfonyl,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfinyl,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -borono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -tetrazol, or  
 $-(CH_2)_n$ -isoxazol, wherein  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , or  $6$ ;

R3, R4, R5 and R6 are independently H, nitro, amino, halogen, tritium, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroacetyl, sulfo, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, or pharmaceutically acceptable ester or salt thereof, R7 is a hydrogen atom or an acyl group. Preferred functional groups for R7 are hydrogen and (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>) alkanoyl groups;

with the proviso that at least one of R1 and R2 is other than H.

13. (original) A compound of formula (IIIa):



wherein: R1, and R2 can each separately be selected from the group consisting of:

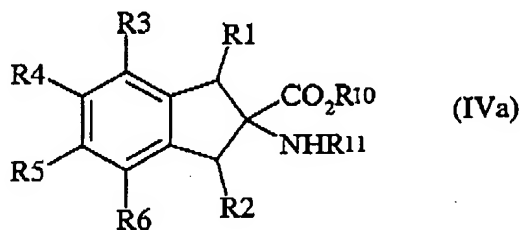
(i) H

- (ii) an acidic group selected from the group comprising carboxy, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfino, borono, tetrazol, isoxazol,  
 $-(CH_2)_n$ -carboxy,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphino,  
 $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfino,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -borono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -tetrazol, or  
 $-(CH_2)_n$ -isoxazol, wherein  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , or  $6$ ;

R3, R4, R5 and R6 are independently H, nitro, amino, halogen, tritium, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroacetyl, sulfo, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, or pharmaceutically acceptable ester or salt thereof; R8 and R9 are each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a  $(C_2-C_6)$  alkanoyl group, a  $(C_1-C_4)$  alkyl group, a  $(C_3-C_4)$  alkenyl group or a phenyl  $(C_1-C_4)$  alkyl group wherein the phenyl is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen,  $(C_1-C_4)$  alkyl or  $(C_1-C_4)$  alkoxy, or a salt thereof;

with the proviso that at least one of R1 and R2 is other than H.

14. (original) A compound of formula (IVa):



wherein: R1, and R2 can each separately be selected from the group consisting of:

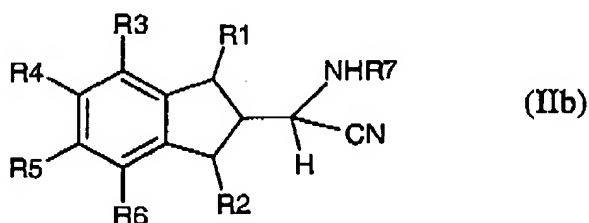
- (i) H

- (ii) an acidic group selected from the group comprising carboxy, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfinio, borono, tetrazol, isoxazol,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -carboxy,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphino,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfinio,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -borono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -tetrazol, or  $-(CH_2)_n$ -isoxazol, wherein  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , or  $6$ ;

R3, R4, R5 and R6 are independently H, nitro, amino, halogen, tritium, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroacetyl, sulfo, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, or pharmaceutically acceptable ester or salt thereof; R10 is a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl protecting group, or a salt thereof, and R11 is a hydrogen atom or a nitrogen protecting group;

with the proviso that at least one of R1 and R2 is other than H.

15. A compound of formula (IIb):



wherein: R1, and R2 can each separately be selected from the group consisting of:

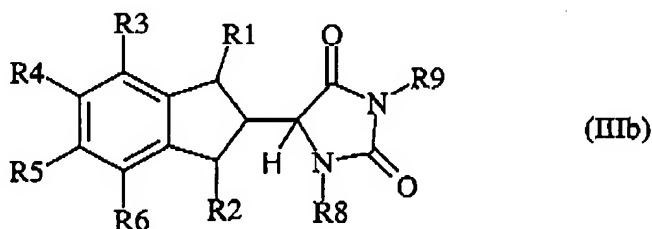
- (i) H

- (ii) an acidic group selected from the group comprising carboxy, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfinio, borono, tetrazol, isoxazol,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -carboxy,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphino,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfinio,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -borono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -tetrazol, or  $-(CH_2)_n$ -isoxazol, wherein  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , or  $6$ ;

R3, R4, R5 and R6 are independently H, nitro, amino, halogen, tritium, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroacetyl, sulfo, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, or pharmaceutically acceptable ester or salt thereof; R7 is a hydrogen atom or an acyl group.;

with the proviso that at least one of R1 and R2 is other than H.

16. (original) A compound of formula (IIIb):



wherein: R1, and R2 can each separately be selected from the group consisting of:

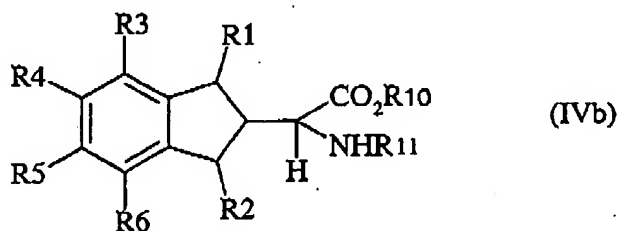
- (i) H
- (ii) an acidic group selected from the group comprising carboxy, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfinio, borono, tetrazol, isoxazol,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -carboxy,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphino,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfinio,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -borono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -tetrazol, or  $-(CH_2)_n$ -isoxazol, wherein  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , or  $6$ ;

$-(CH_2)_n$ -carboxy,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphino,  
 $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfonyl,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfinyl,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -borono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -tetrazol, or  
 $-(CH_2)_n$ -isoxazol, wherein  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \text{ or } 6$ ;

$R_3, R_4, R_5$  and  $R_6$  are independently H, nitro, amino, halogen, tritium, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroacetyl, sulfo, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, or pharmaceutically acceptable ester or salt thereof;  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  are each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a  $(C_2-C_6)$  alkanoyl group, a  $(C_1-C_4)$  alkyl group, a  $(C_3-C_6)$  alkenyl group or a phenyl  $(C_1-C_4)$  alkyl group wherein the phenyl is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen,  $(C_1-C_4)$  alkyl or  $(C_1-C_4)$  alkoxy, or a salt thereof;

with the proviso that at least one of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is other than H.

17. (original) A compound of formula (IVb):



wherein:  $R_1$ , and  $R_2$  can each separately be selected from the group consisting of:

(i) H

- (ii) an acidic group selected from the group comprising carboxy, phosphono, phosphino, sulfono, sulfinio, borono, tetrazol, isoxazol,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -carboxy,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -phosphino,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -sulfinio,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -borono,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -tetrazol, or  $-(CH_2)_n$ -isoxazol, wherein  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , or  $6$ ;

R3, R4, R5 and R6 are independently H, nitro, amino, halogen, tritium, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroacetyl, sulfo, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, or pharmaceutically acceptable ester or salt thereof; R10 is a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl protecting group or a salt thereof, and R11 is a hydrogen atom or a nitrogen protecting;

with the proviso that at least one of R1 and R2 is other than H.